

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067763
ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 /040 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:ASKOCHANЕК:RG
APPROVED BY PM/SAS:ASKOCHANЕК
NEA/IRN - MR. GREEN
-----262117Z 129094 /66
R 261915Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR, US

SUBJECT: BELL HELICOPTER CO-PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 54787; TEHRAN 2342

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES EMBASSY EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A REPLY WHICH WILL BE CLEAR TO IRAN. HOWEVER, SUBSTITUTE TEXT GOES MUCH FURTHER SUBSTANTIVELY THAN WE ARE PREPARED TO GO AND IS SIMILAR TO PROPOSAL PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED IN DEPT. AND REJECTED. OUR MAIN PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED REDRAFT OF LETTER IS THAT IT HAS EFFECT OF APPROVING SUBSTANCE OF IRAN PROPOSAL NOW FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN FUTURE. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS STAGE TO GO BEYOND A COMMITMENT TO GIVE "PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION" TO SUCH FUTURE REQUESTS. SECONDARY PROBLEM IS THAT PROPOSED REDRAFT REQUIRING IRAN "TO CHECK WITH USG" TO ASCERTAIN POLICY IN FUTURE FALLS FAR SHORT OF OUR POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS THAT IRAN OBTAIN "PRIOR WRITTEN USG APPROVAL" OF ANY TRANSFERS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

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2. DEPT. STRONGLY PREFERS TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER CONTAINED STATE 54787, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO COMPANY PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF YOUR CABLE. IF IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO FMS ELIGIBILITY MIGHT CONFUSE IRANIANS RATHER THAN CLARIFY US POSITION WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT EMBASSY TEXT AS MODIFIED IN PARA 3 BELOW AND

SO INFORM THE US COMPANY. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM DEPT.
WHICH OF TWO TEXTS IS TRANSMITTED.

3. FOLLOWING IS MODIFIED VERSION OF EMBASSY REDRAFT
ACCEPTABLE TO US: BEGIN TEXT.

IN THE CONTRACT CONCLUDED IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975 BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND BELL HELICOPTER/TEXTRON ON
HELICOPTER COPRODUCTION A VERY WIDE COMMERCIAL SALES
TERRITORY WAS INCLUDED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED CONDITION
FOR PRIOR UNITED STATES APPROVAL FOR EACH SALE. THE
GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS, OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE LAW AND
POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE
SALE OR TRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRIES OF MILITARY ITEMS
WHICH MIGHT BE PRODUCED IN IRAN USING TECHNICAL DATA
FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDED THE
MINISTER OF THE IMPERIAL COURT A DETAILED WRITTEN STATE-
MENT EXPLAINING THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THIS ISSUE
ON NOVEMBER 9, 1975. THE REQUIREMENTS OF UNITED STATES
LAWS AND REGULATIONS REMAIN AS SET FORTH IN THAT STATE-
MENT.

IN VIEW OF IRAN'S INTEREST IN HAVING A CLARIFICATION OF
US POLICY ON THIRD COUNTRY SALES AS IT PERTAINS TO THE
HELICOPTER COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENT APPROPRIATE US
AUTHORITIES UNDERTOOK TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN THAT
REGARD. UNITED STATES PRACTICE IS TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER
OR SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO A THIRD COUNTRY IF AT
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THAT TIME WE OURSELVES WOULD APPROVE THE SALE OR TRANSFER
OF THE SAME OR LIKE EQUIPMENT TO THAT COUNTRY IN COM-
PARABLE QUANTITIES AND UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS
(INCLUDING RETRANSFER ASSURANCES) CONSISTENT WITH UNITED
STATES LEGAL AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS.

THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO ACCORD THE SAME TREAT-
MENT TO IRAN. THUS, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO
GIVE PROMPT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO SALES OR
TRANSFERS UNDER THE HELICOPTER COPRODUCTION AGREEMENT TO
THIRD COUNTRIES IF AT THE TIME THE GOI WISHES TO MAKE SUCH
A SALE OR TRANSFER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD
APPROVE A SALE OR TRANSFER BY THE UNITED STATES TO THAT
COUNTRY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. IT WILL BE NECESSARY WITH
RESPECT TO A PROPOSED SALE OR TRANSFER FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF IRAN TO OBTAIN THE PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT TO ASCERTAIN UNITED STATES POLICY AT
THAT TIME.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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